Setting up of Railway Industry in Assam

1690. SHRI URKHAO GWARA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry would contemplate any policy to set up any railway industry in Assam like coach manufacturing or railway tract manufacturing;

(b) whether any possibility is there to convert the New Bongaigaon railway workshop to a manufacturing unit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Manufacturing units are set up based on the requirement of railways and available capacity in the region. Considering overall requirement of the railways, at present there is no proposal to convert New Bongaigaon Railway workshop, which is already performing its role as an overhauling workshop, into a manufacturing unit.

Jatropha plantation on vacant railway land

†1691. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering upon planting Jatropha ayurvedic plants on the both sides of vacant land of railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated by Government for the implementation of this scheme; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no specific scheme for plantation of Jatropha trees on both sides of Railway tracks. Railways have, however, a general policy for plantation of trees, including 'Jatropha Curcus', on such vacant land, which is not immediately required for Railway's own use.

Allotment of kiosks at stations

†1692. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present criteria and other terms and conditions laid down by the Railways for allotment of kiosks at the Railway Stations;

(b) whether the Railways have received complaints in the last few years against allotment of kiosk at the various railway stations;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against those guilty owners of kiosks by the Railways against whom complaints of violation of conditions have been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The procedure followed for awarding kiosks like catering stall and trolleys at railway stations by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Zonal Railways is transparent. While Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) follows two packet tender system for awarding all contracts, zonal railways follow the method of selection by a committee of officers comprising of Commercial, Finance and one from any other department.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Action like counseling, warning, imposing of penalty, closure of stall/kiosk for specific period and termination of licence etc. is taken whenever complaints were substantiated for act of violation of conditions.

Direct train from Lucknow to Goa

†1693. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facility of direct train from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh to Goa is not available;

(b) whether Government would consider on extending the route of weekly train from Lucknow to Pune upto Goa;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider on attaching one coach of Pune Express with Mangla Express at Jhansi; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There is no direct train between Lucknow and Goa.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of rail routes

1694. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of new rail routes has been finalized in the country for the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the total length of new rail routes proposed to be constructed in the country particularly in Sikkim State during this Plan; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.